AC 4411(2) COLCHESTER library

COLCHESTER PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1955.

Section 1. Staff

Table A.

Name of Officer.	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Other Appointments held.
Kershaw, John Dunkerley	Port M. O.	1.11.46	M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,	Area M.O. Div. S.M.O. M.O.H. Boro. of Colchester
Norris, Patrick Salmon	Port Med. Inspector (Circ. 2642)	1.10.47	M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P.	General Practice only.
Colvin, James	Port Sanitary Officer (part-time)	5.5.55	M.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Brightlingsea.

Address of M. O. H. is Health Offices, 4, Trinity Street, Colchester. Te. No. 5101, Extn. 73 (after 5.30 p.m. 3107, Extn. 8)

Section 2. Amount of shipping entering district during year.

Table B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Insp. by M.O.H.	Insp. by Port. San. Officer.	No. of ships reported etc. re Inf. Diseases.
Foreign Ports	159	20,806	Nil	116	Nil
Coastwise	1,867	142,940	Nil		Nil
Total	2,026	163,746	Nil	116	Nil

Note : These figures do not include local fishing boats and yachts.

Section 3. Character of shipping and trade during year

Table C.

Passenger traffic : Nil

Cargo traffic : Principal imports : Clay, timber, coal, corn, potatoes.
" exports : Gravel and sand, flour.

Principal ports from which ships arrive : London, Newcastle, Fur (Denmark)

Section 4. Inland barge traffic.

There is no fresh water barge traffic. Two flour mills, one at East Bay, Colchester, and one at Fingringhoe, are at the limits of the tideway, and are served by barges, the Colchester Mill having it's own fleet which also serves another of their mills at Felixstowe on the Suffolk coast.

Section 5. Water Supply.

Source of supply for the district : Waterworks at Brightlingsea, West Mersea, Abberton, Rowhedge, and Colchester.
" " " " shipping : Boro. of Colchester, U. D.'s of Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe.

2. Routine samples at intervals. Results for 1955 were satisfactory.

3. Tap and hose enclosed in box.

4. Two water boats based at Brightlingsea, and operated by shipyard firms are inspected at regular intervals and storage tanks are thoroughly cleansed at least once a year.

Section 6. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

List of infected areas (Regulation 6) - No special list is kept and amended, as ships from infected areas are unlikely to use this port, overseas trade being confined to countries in western Europe. The official weekly statement issued by the Ministry of Health is perused in the office of the Port M. O. H. and is then posted to H. M. Preventive Officer in Charge at Brightlingsea as the first person likely to board vessels on arrival.

(2) a. Not a radio transmitting port (Regulation 13)

b. " " " receiving port (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and 2.)

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio (Regulation 14 (1) b.)

Messages to vessels are transmitted and received through H. M. Customs and Excise, Brightlingsea, and also through Lloyd's Agent, Hythe Quay, Colchester. If necessary the Customs Officers would arrange for radio messages to be sent from a station situated outside the district.

(4) Mooring stations : Mooring stations for suspected vessels are situated at Brightlingsea.

(5) a. Infectious diseases are accommodated at Myland Hospital, Mill Road, Colchester.
b. Contacts on the vessel are seen by the M. O. H. or one of the medical staff of the Colchester Health Department, and those who have proceeded outside the area are notified to the M. O. H. of the district of destination for visit and report.
c. Ships would be disinfected within the Port area by means of formaldehyde generators or sprays, but large vessels would be sent to the Port of London for treatment.

Section 7. Smallpox.

(1) The Rivers Hospital, (Long Beach) Dartford, Kent or the Smallpox Hospital, Ipswich, Suffolk, with reserve accommodation, if necessary, at Colchester Isolation Hospital.

(2) Cases requiring removal to Hospital would be moved by arrangement with the Essex County Council Ambulance Station, Lexden, Colchester, on telephoned request from medical staff. All ambulance crews are vaccinated on joining and at intervals.

(3) Port M. O. H. is a Consultant for the North-East Metropolitan Regional Board Area No. 6, and is on the Ministry's Panel of Consultants. If Dr. Kershaw is not available one of the following :-

Dr. W. T. G. Boul, Grays.
Dr. J. P. Marsden, Rivers Hospital, Joyce Green, Dartford.
Dr. W. J. Coughlan, Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, Kent.

(4) Suspected smallpox crusts or vesicle fluids for diagnostic complement fixation tests are being sent to Prof. A. W. Downie, Dept. of Bacteriology, The University, 126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

Section 8. Venereal Disease.

List 7A (May 1940) issued by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the International Agreement (Brussels, 1924) is kept in the office occupied by Port M. O. and it is available to other port staff requiring addresses at home and abroad. Lavatories and urinals in the Port area have local information exhibited and also posters issued by the Ministry in connection with the educational campaign.

Centre for diagnosis and Out-patient treatment at the Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester as under :-

Mondays : 5-7 p.m. and Fridays : 3.30-4.30 p.m.

In-patient treatment is arranged at the nearest Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich, London, S. E.

Section 9. Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

Table D.

No cases of infectious diseases occurred among crews. As noted- under Table C- there is no passenger traffic. The answers are therefore NIL throughout.

Sections 10 and 11. Malaria and Plague.

The Port is not used by any ships visiting tropical areas.

Section 12. Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

(1) Examination for evidence of rat infestation is carried out in all vessels inspected.
(2) Bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents would be carried out in Ministry of Food Laboratory or at the Public Health Laboratory, Borough General Hospital, Ipswich.
(3) Disinfestation is by means of poison baits, but in cases of heavy infestation where hydrogen cyanide would be more appropriate and effective, the vessel would be sent to either the Port Authorities at Harwich or London.
(4) Very little has been done in rat proofing of vessels built many years ago.

Table E. Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category :	Number	Exd.	Plague found.
Black, brown,	Nil	Nil	Nil
unknown species :	nil	nil	nil

Table F. The Port Sanitary Authority is not authorised to issue Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificates.

Rodent Control Certificates under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951 are issued.

Section 13. Inspection of ships for Nuisances.

Table G. Inspections and Notices.

Nature & No. of inspections.		Notices served Statutory	Notices served Other	Result of serving notice.
General (sanitation, infestation, and cleanliness)	116	nil	15	Cleansing and repairs carried out.
Water boats for hygiene & sampling.	4	nil	nil	---

Section 14. Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

Oysters from Brightlingsea and St. Osyth Creeks which are liable to pollution are treated at Brightlingsea Oyster Cleansing Station which is controlled by the Brightlingsea and Tendring Shell-fish Committee

under the direction of the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Health. Large numbers of young oysters are imported each year from Portugal, and reared on oyster beds in the above creeks, and are sold throughout the year without any 'close' season.

The famous Colchester Native oysters are cultivated in the River Colne, and the Pyefleet Channel, and are not subject to the pollution which occurs in the Brightlingsea and St. Osyth Creeks. Oyster and water samples from the West Ledgeon and the Hill on the Pyefleet Creek were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich for bacteriological analyses and all reached a satisfactory standard.

Cockles, winkles, and mussels are collected from the shores of the tidal River Colne and are sold without treatment of any kind. No case of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever came to our knowledge which could be attributed to infection by shell-fish obtained in the locality. The trouble at West Mersea (alluded to in the full Report for 1952) died away without further cases.

Section 15. Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

Section 16. Miscellaneous.

Mortuaries are available at Colchester, Brightlingsea, and Tiverhoe. Burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from an infectious disease has been in the past at Colchester Cemetery under the supervision of the officers of the Borough Health Department, and in the presence of a member of the Consular staff in the case of foreign nationals. New mortuary arrangements were concluded during the year whereby the Regional Hospital Board has allowed us facilities at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

There was a gap of several weeks between the appointment of Mr. Colvin and the resignation of Mr. R. Boast.

One case of illness aboard ship was investigated. This was a member of the crew of the 'Fortunity'. He was removed to the General Hospital in Colchester as a suspected case of appendicitis.

A vessel with an out-of-date Deratting Exemption Certificate was directed to Harwich before being allowed to proceed to Holland.

John O. Kershaw.
Port Medical Officer.

21st. March, 1956.